



Des Moines WoodTurners

Chapter Meeting Announcement & Newsletter

Dec 2020

AAW Chapter 158

A 501(c)(3) Non-profit Organization

Bulletin 2020-12

2020 IN REVIEW

What a year 2020 has been! It started out great but went south very quickly. Our Chapter has had its high points as well as some very low points. **Tom Baker** has gone the extra mile to provide us with access to Zoom for our Chapter and Scout Center meetings – thank you Tom! Our training classes have continued – a big thank you to **Dick Meuler** and **Tad Tadlock** for conducting these. We have had some great programs at our Chapter meetings, although somewhat challenging to do. Also, a big thank you to **Dan Carlson** preparing the membership list and to **Jim Bergeson** for getting it up on our Des Moines Woodturners website. By now, everyone should have received the password for accessing this. If you have not, contact Dan Carlson and he will provide it to you.

Sadly, we have also lost four members this year (that we know about) – Russ Dent, George Takacs, Tom VanHon, and Jerry Selover. Additionally, members Del Kramersmeier and Vikki Morain lost their spouses. Please remember these families during this holiday season.

With the vaccine on the horizon, let's hope for a better 2021 and look with high anticipation to being able to get together live once again.

DECEMBER CHAPTER “ZOOM” MEETING PREVIEW

I have never been part of a Zoom meeting – what do I need to do?

To connect to the meeting, all that is required is for you to click on a link provided below. This should launch your web browser to connect to the Zoom conferencing web site, and then follow any start-up instructions requested. You may need to answer 'Yes' to downloading the Zoom ".exe" file and start the program by clicking in your downloads list at the top of your browser's screen. If prompted to do so, click on "Join meeting with Video" and/or "Join meeting with Audio".

After a few seconds, you should see a screen with multiple boxes of member's video feeds. At the beginning of the meeting, we will go over how to control your microphone (mute or unmute), your video/camera feed, and other controls.

IF YOU ENCOUNTER PROBLEMS - contact **Tom Baker** for help with getting the connection problem resolved.
Call 515-249-7503 (cell).

In your "Settings" menu, it may be necessary to check to see *that your webcam is turned on*, that your *microphone is turned on*, and that the *speakers are enabled*.

TO JOIN THE DMWT MEETING ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12 AT 1:00 PM CLICK ON:

<https://zoom.us/j/99288042541?pwd=bXFBREltUFhiVDZhWG5EVGJudWFRZz09>

Meeting ID: [992 8804 2541](#)

Password: 095314 (if you need it)

To view a simple, a 1-minute video tutorial about how to connect is available at:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting>

THE DECEMBER PROGRAM will be a presentation by member **Dick Meuler**.



"I'll show a broad range of turned **Christmas** ornaments and decorations. I'll also illustrate what happens when a project explodes as a probable result of heat generated micro-fractures caused during friction polishing on the lathe. Lastly, a mini shop tour showing dust collection methods, curtain enclosures to contain turning chips, various handy tool storage systems plus a log to plank bandsaw homemade cutting jig."

As always, we will have time for **questions and answers** as well as **show and tell**. Since we have not met in person, the number of pieces shown during this time has greatly diminished, which is strange because what else do we have to do but to spend time with our friend, the lathe. So, I want to encourage everyone to have something to show others. I don't want anyone to think "my stuff isn't that great", or any other comment similar to this. Show and tell is NOT about "look at me", but rather how can the efforts of one person help to encourage or influence someone else! Also, take an interest in what others are showing by asking them questions like: "How did you do..."

or "what is the finish?" of any other kind of question about their project you might have. Woodturning is all about sharing what we have learned with others. Please join in this month! For many folks within our Chapter, seeing what others have created is the highlight of the meeting. I for one really look forward to seeing with others have done. I have been encouraged and inspired by this, and I don't want to be disappointed, so please show up for the dance – OK?

Thanks, and lets have a great meeting Saturday.

WOODTURNING TRAINING NEWS by Dick Meuler

Week of Nov 16th saw four days of training classes and brought to an end our 2020 training year. Over 20 students attended nine classes. Reduced class sizes due to Covid limited the number of students and instructors involved.

Feb - Refresher Woodturning Class: **Jim Appleby** (Newton), **Dick Edwards** (WDM), **Jim Pierce** (Runnells),
Nan Sloan (Boone)

Jun - Basic Woodturning Class: **Tony Raymer** (DM), **Dennis Schrodtt** (Prole), `
John Augspurger (Clive) and one student incompletion

Sep - Basic Woodturning Class: **Mike Gieszler** (Ankeny), **Vince Lewis** (WDM)

Oct - Basic Bowl Turning Class: **Rob Blink** (WDM), **Vince Lewis** (WDM)
John Augspurger (Clive), **Jim Pierce** (Runnells)
Jim Appleby (Newton), **Bill Fanter** (DM)

Nov - Embellishing Tool Use : **Maurice Herold** (Indianola), **John Augspurger** (Clive)

Nov - Offset Joyner Jig Use Class: **Donna Byers** (Ankeny), **Vikki Morain** (Lamoni)

Nov - Basic Bowl Turning Class: **Tony Raymer** (DM), **Maurice Herold** (Indianola)

We'll enter 2021 with seven (7) members on the waiting list for our two-day Basic Woodturning class and three (3) for our Basic Bowl Turning class. We're also open to conducting a few specialty one-day classes when we have an interest by multiple members. To apply, simply drop an e-mail to dmeuler@gmail.com indicating the class subject or name, your name and your phone number or you can phone 515-991-8111 and leave a voice-mail message with the same information. If you have questions about our member training program, you can contact me about them too. Just remember, all members have to have taken our Basic Woodturning class or equivalent before they can take any other classes. Classes are for members only, and unless otherwise specified, cost \$15 per class date, regardless the length of class.

VETERAN PEN TURNING CLASSES by Dick Meuler

Our relationship with the Central Iowa Veterans Administration continued through 2020 despite the Covid restrictions in place. We conducted five (5) pen turning classes for staff and Veterans. Participation in their indoor programs has dropped off, so we'll just have to wait and see what 2021 has to bring.



- Left – **Tad Tadlock** working with Vet on initial tool use practice

- Right – **Donna Byers** working with Vet on turning the real pen blanks

- Not shown – **Dan England** working with Vet on pen assembly.



NEW TO WOODTURNING AND NEED HELP GETTING STARTED?

Getting started in woodturning isn't just picking up an old used lathe, acquiring some decades old bargain garage sale tools and whipping out a project using an inappropriate and dull tool to shape a rapidly rotating piece of dry Osage Orange timber. Let's just say it wouldn't be a safe or enjoyable experience. Beyond learning woodturning jargon is the task of selecting equipment, tools, and accessories to insure you invest wisely and give yourself a reasonable chance at learning a new skill. Learning woodturning takes practice. Lots of practice. But it should all be enjoyable, rewarding and done safely. That's our goal for you.

Tool steel has changed from the softer carbon steel of years past to High-Speed Steel and beyond. Sharpening has slowly migrated from AO stone wheels to CBN wheels using slow speed motors. Lathes have changed from step pulleys to electronic speed controls with soft starts, all designed to keep you safer and more efficient in your woodturning journey. One tip all beginners need is not to buy a set of woodturning tools. They typically contain smaller, less usable length tools and includes some tools you'll probably never use. It is less expensive to purchase the individual tools you need. If you have questions and would like to find out more about tools, equipment or the kinds of woodturning beginners should do, feel free to give a call. If I can't help, I'll connect you with someone who can.

Contact dmeuler@gmail.com or call 515-991-8111 between 10am & 9pm and leave a voice mail.

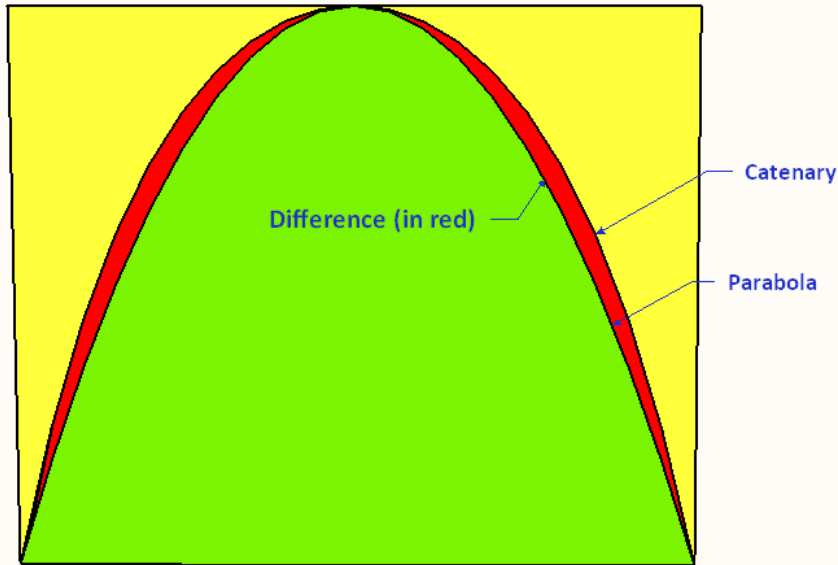
DES MOINES WOODTURNERS WEARABLES

Members wanting Des Moines Woodturners logos embroidered on clothing are advised to purchase shirts, sweatshirts or turning smocks of their choice and style. These must be BRAND NEW and UNWASHED and can be delivered to any officer or board member. When enough are collected to meet minimums, they will be taken to the embroiderer. Be sure to attach a note with your name to the collar of each garment submitted indicating if and how you want your name embroidered along with the Chapter logo. Costs to add the standard logo are \$8.00 per item. Personalized names can also be added for an additional \$6.00 per item. Chat with **Rob Beattie** if you have questions. 282-4532 or beattie.r@mchsi.com.

JANUARY PROJECT CHALLENGE!

Make a bowl with a Catenary curve.

In physics and geometry, a catenary is the curve that an idealized hanging chain or cable assumes under its own weight when supported only at its ends. The catenary curve has a U-like shape, superficially similar in appearance to a parabolic arch, but it is not a parabola. Wikipedia. (For my January math minute, the catenary is described by the equation: $y = a^2(e^{x/a} + e^{-x/a}) = a \cosh x/a$, where a is a constant. The lowest point of the chain is at $(0, a)$.)



Some people think it is a parabola, which it is not. (see the difference on the left)

A hanging chain or light wires along the highway are excellent examples of a catenary curve.



The Challenge!

Create a bowl based on the catenary curve. The real challenge is to get a continuous curve on the bottom. NO FLAT SPOTS and just a smooth continuous curve. Can you do it? I want to see it at the January show and tell!

6 PERFECT WOOD BOWL BOTTOM – TECHNIQUES (Reprinted with permission)

The bowl bottom is so critically important to wood bowl turning. In a well-made bowl, the curve flows smoothly and evenly from the side walls to the gracefully curved concave bowl bottom. When that bowl bottom isn't smooth, or flowing is when we usually take notice.

After our fingers glide across the bowl's rim, our eyes, and many times our hand moves to the inside visible wood bowl bottom surface. What's interesting is how easy it is to overlook a well-made bowl bottom.

So many art forms, when done well, are easily overlooked, unnoticed. Many times, when art or craftsmanship is done well, it is merely there and often taken for granted, almost invisible.

The wood bowl turner's role is to take a piece of raw timber and reduce it into an elegantly shaped, pleasing bowl form. Unfortunately, an average person, with little regard for bowls, will barely register a finely turned wood bowl as anything more than a "bowl" and move on.

A good actor makes us fall into a movie. We forget they are acting, and we believe the storyline they are performing. A bad actor, like a bad bowl bottom, makes us pay attention to the flaws and question the performance.

I can think of at least six bad actors that have the chance of derailing a bowl's aesthetics. Let's take a look at these potential bowl bottom butchers and how to counter each of them.

<https://turnawoodbowl.com/wood-bowl-bottom-6-tricks-perfection/>

IOWA ARBORETUM RECOVERY PROJECT – by Dick Meuler

Member Roger Nass and a group of other avid woodturners of our Chapter and the Ames AAW Chapter have taken on a unique project to use downed tree wood for good rather than just send it off to a disposal site.

The Iowa Arboretum experienced a derecho storm on August 10th that also impacted most of the Midwest. Winds gusting over 130 miles per hour whipped through the Arboretum and caused damage to over 200 trees on the main campus. Over 133 specimen trees have to be removed from the grounds. The arboretum is now closed



as the staff and volunteers start the long and arduous job of cleaning up and restoring the grounds and woodland trails.

Here's the deal. Below is a listing of the species that were affected by the storm. I think you'll agree that most of those species have never been on your lathe. If you are an experienced turner, a number of those species are being picked-up and stored on Roger's property in the Ames area, west of town. What is being asked is for individuals to volunteer to go pick-up any reasonable number of pieces and agree to turn and finish a minimum of one sellable piece to give back to the arboretum for them to sell at a fund-raising auction or in their gift shop when they reopen. The rest is yours for personal use. The arboretum understands that green wood isn't something that can normally be turned around in a short period of time. But within a year, you should be able to have a nice presentable project, or more, that you could donate back to help raise money for their recovery. It's also an opportunity for you to experience turning some interesting species. Spindle or cross-grain projects are all acceptable. Turn functional, decorative, or artsy items. So why not lend a hand and use your woodturning skills to help out a great cause and save some good tree wood from rotting in a disposal site. At the same time, you'll acquire some free wood for your personal use. Sounds like a WIN, WIN to me.

If you have questions relating to the available species, sizes, characteristics, pick-up times, etc., contact Roger direct at **515-292-0248** in Ames or e-mail him at rnass2143@aol.com and include your phone number so Roger can contact you.

Iowa Arboretum Damaged Tree Species

1 Black River Birch	10 Shagbark Hickory	19 Black Walnut
2 Miyabbi Maple	11 Chestnut	20 Hickory
3 White Willow	12 Honey Locust	22 Osage Orange
4 Yellow wood	13 Gmelin Larch	23 Silver Willow
5 Red Bud	14 Amur cork	24 Lacebark Elm
6 Freeman Maple	15 White Willow	25 Japanese Wingnut
7 Red Maple	16 Chinese Black Walnut	26 Sycamore
8 Chinese Elm	17 Green/white Ash	27 White Oak
9 Shingle Oak	18 More Green/white Ash	28 Excelsior Ash

Not all species have been brought to Roger's lot – Yes, 21 is missing, no longer available

CHAPTER DIRECT WEB LINKS – Below are a few direct links to our Chapter web site.

- Calendar of Events - http://www.dmwoodturners.com/?page_id=2
- Woodturning Article and Plan Links - http://www.dmwoodturners.com/?page_id=90
- Chapter Library contents - http://www.dmwoodturners.com/?page_id=84
- Contact board members and volunteers - http://www.dmwoodturners.com/?page_id=126
- Download Membership Application form - http://www.dmwoodturners.com/?page_id=399
- Download or view Scout Center Networking Info - http://www.dmwoodturners.com/?page_id=500

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of WOODTURNERS (AAW) - If you are an avid woodturner, we would recommend an AAW membership because it offers you many woodturning resources including access to all previous issues of American Woodturner, the AAW Journal of articles, plans and woodturning techniques, six NEW issues of American Woodturner a year along PLUS six issues of the digital Woodturning FUNDamentals and many other learning resources and opportunities. Check them out at <http://www.woodturner.org>.



AAW GUEST MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM CONTINUES - AAW continues to offer a **Guest** membership program for Chapter members who are not yet AAW members. By signing up for a complimentary **Guest** membership, Chapter members can have limited access to AAW member resources for a full 60 days. They'll be able to explore what the AAW has to offer, kick their tires, and hopefully decide to become full-fledged AAW members and benefit from everything the AAW has to offer. The Guest membership welcome page can be found at <https://www.woodturner.org/Woodturner/Join-Pages/Guest-Online-Membership.aspx?WebsiteKey=c9100f02-c77e-4177-a9bc-7d3eb0216238>

Woodturning FUNDamentals – The Woodturning FUNDamentals are digital publications offered to members four times annually. Each issue includes projects, techniques, tips, videos, and information to build essential woodturning skills. These publications are design to turners at all levels build strong woodturning skills and essential techniques. This portal contains the current and all the past Woodturning FUNDamentals digital publications.

<https://www.woodturner.org/Woodturner/Resources/Publications/Woodturning-Fundamentals/Woodturner/Resources/Woodturning-Fundamentals--Publication-/Woodturning-Fundamentals.aspx?hkey=eee166cc-4207-40b2-8094-b7ad83faa93a>

AAW PROJECTS AND ARTICLES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Nearly everything you want to know about woodturning is at your fingertips.

<https://www.woodturner.org/Woodturner/Resources/Woodturner/Landing-Pages/Res.aspx?hkey=3888ecb5-0a54-4e8c-9963-fa4d1b7a6858>

AAW STORE – This link will connect you to the store where you can purchase anything the AAW has to offer – videos, books – you name it! <https://www.woodturner.org/Woodturner/Shop/AAW/Shop/Store-Overall-Splash.aspx?hkey=6fb989fa-f65e-4701-ab68-1437920235c1>

AAW GRANTS - AAW is now accepting annual grant applications for award and use in 2021. Submission for these education Grants runs through December 31, 2020. Grants may be awarded to individuals, Chapters, and schools and other groups for woodturning education endeavors. Learn more one the AAW website at: <https://www.woodturner.org/Woodturner/Learn/Learn-about-AAW/Grants/Woodturner/2020%20Grants/Grant-Applications.aspx?hkey=008fe559-c478-482b-b143-ac8a0ca5ec28>

AAW MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS – JOIN or RENEW TODAY <https://www.woodturner.org/Woodturner/Join-Pages/Member-Benefits-and-Services.aspx>



Turn to your Passion

American Association of Woodturners

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